

Introduced by Senator Padilla
(Principal coauthor: Senator De León)
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Bocanegra)

September 12, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 72—Relative to the David M. Gonzales Medal of Honor World War II Memorial Interchange.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 72, as introduced, Padilla. David M. Gonzales Medal of Honor World War II Memorial Interchange.

This measure would designate the interchange of State Highway Route 5 and State Highway Route 118 in the City of Los Angeles as the David M. Gonzales Medal of Honor World War II Memorial Interchange.

The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, David M. Gonzales, Private First Class (PFC),
- 2 United States Army, was born on June 9, 1923 in East Los Angeles
- 3 and raised in Pacoima, California; and
- 4 WHEREAS, David M. Gonzales joined the Army during World
- 5 War II on March 31, 1944, at Fort MacArthur, and was deployed
- 6 to the Philippines as an infantry replacement in December 1944;
- 7 and

1 WHEREAS, PFC Gonzales' heroic service on the Villa Verde
2 Trail in Luzon, Philippines, on April 25, 1945, earned him,
3 posthumously, the Congressional Medal of Honor; and

4 WHEREAS, On April 25, 1945, PFC Gonzales and his unit,
5 Company A, 127th Infantry, 32nd Division, were pinned down by
6 enemy fire when a 500-pound bomb exploded in the company's
7 perimeter, burying five men of Company A; and

8 WHEREAS, Without hesitation, PFC Gonzales seized an
9 entrenching tool, and, under a hail of fire, crawled 15 yards to his
10 entombed comrades, while his commanding officer, who also
11 rushed forward to help, was struck and instantly killed by machine
12 gun fire; and

13 WHEREAS, Undismayed, PFC Gonzales set to work swiftly
14 with the entrenching tool, and continued to dig out the five trapped
15 men, while enemy sniper fire and machine gun bullets struck him;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, After PFC Gonzales had successfully freed one of
18 the men, he stood up to be able to dig faster, despite the fact that
19 such a position exposed him to greater danger, and while he
20 successfully freed another man, PFC Gonzales was mortally
21 wounded by enemy fire as he finished liberating the third trapped
22 man; and

23 WHEREAS, In the words of President Harry Truman, "Private
24 Gonzales' valiant and intrepid conduct exemplified the highest
25 tradition of the military service"; and

26 WHEREAS, The other two buried soldiers were later saved
27 when the intense enemy fire subsided; and

28 WHEREAS, PFC Gonzales was killed on April 25, 1945, while
29 serving our country and saving the lives of his comrades on the
30 field of battle during World War II; and

31 WHEREAS, PFC Gonzales was survived by his then 25-year-old
32 widow, Mrs. Steffanie Gonzales, his one-year-old son, David
33 Gonzales, Jr., and his mother, Mrs. Rita Gonzales Duarte; and

34 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to memorialize the sacrifice made
35 by PFC Gonzales and to honor his valiant and intrepid service to
36 the people of the United States by designating the interchange of
37 State Highway Route 5 and State Highway Route 118 in the City
38 of Los Angeles as the David M. Gonzales Medal of Honor World
39 War II Memorial Interchange; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the interchange of State Highway Route
3 5 and State Highway Route 118 in the City of Los Angeles is
4 hereby designated as the David M. Gonzales Medal of Honor
5 World War II Memorial Interchange; and be it further

6 *Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is requested
7 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the
8 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this
9 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
10 sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those signs; and be it
11 further

12 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
13 this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author
14 for appropriate distribution.